

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ASSIGNING UNIQUE DEVICE IDENTIFIERS ACROSS A DISTRIBUTED COMPUTING SYSTEM

ABSTRACT

One embodiment of the present invention provides a system that facilitates assigning an identifier to a device within a distributed computing system, wherein the identifier is unique across the distributed computing system. The system operates by detecting the presence of the device within a local computer system within the distributed computing system. If an identifier has not been assigned to the device, the system assigns an identifier to the device by, attempting to retrieve the identifier from a local pool of device identifiers within the local computer system. If the local pool is empty, the system retrieves at least one additional identifier for the local pool from a global allocator for device identifiers located within the distributed computing system. Next, the system assigns the retrieved identifier to the device so that the identifier can be used to reference the device.